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REPORT

TOPIC Soviet Units in Koermend and SzombathelyEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 3 April 1951REFERENCES PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

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Koermend.

1. The Batthyanyi Castle in Koermend (P 48/C 76) quartered 600 to 800 Soviet troops prior to 20 November 1950. Armored vehicles and trucks were in the large park of the castle.
2. The New Barracks, formerly Infantry Barracks, on the west side of Szombathely Street, was occupied by about 200 troops. Trucks were parked in the barracks yard.
3. The Old Barracks, formerly Border Guard Barracks west of the New Barracks and south of the Koermend railroad station, quartered recruits who left the installation for daily field training. ammunition was stockpiled in one or the annex buildings of the installation. 50X1-HUM
4. The former court building on the north side of Piac Square, west of Batthyanyi Castle, quartered 25 military personnel, including one colonel or lieutenant colonel, whom local residents believed to be the commanding officer of the Soviet troops in the city. Of the 15 telephone wires converging at the court building, five or six ran to the former Kardos Restaurant.
5. The Kardos Restaurant, which was building No 33 or 35 on the east side of Deak Ferenc Street, housed a signal unit. A detail of about 25 men remained there during the period of the summer maneuvers. From the quarters a lead was strung to an antenna system in the open area, about 1 km northwest of the railroad station. The antenna system consisted of a wooden cabin and four masts, each about 6 meters high. Another wire was strung from there toward Szombathely (P 48/C 78).
6. The former district court building on the south side of Piac Square, west of Batthyanyi Castle, quartered 50 to 60 Soviet soldiers.
7. The Koronova Hotel, at the intersection of Hosszu Street and Szombathely Street, was frequented by numerous Soviet officers.

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8. The former customs police office at the intersection of Deak Ferenc Street and Bercsenyi Street quartered a Hungarian border guard company.
9. All Soviet troops observed at the Koermend military post wore red-bordered black epaulets.
10. The Soviet troops departed from Koermend by rail on about five trains during April 1950. Three trains carrying Soviet military personnel returned to Koermend during the first part of October 1950. According to railroadmen, they came from Hajmasker (P 43/D 79). The following [] observations were made:

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- a. The first train carried 20 to 25 officers and about 100 EM in three boxcars, and about 30 armored vehicles on flatcars. The ranking officer was a colonel or lieutenant colonel. The vehicles and the troops left the railroad station for Batthyanyi Castle. [] the armored vehicles had rigid super-structures and mounted guns without muzzle brakes.
- b. The second train carried about 10 officers, about 140 EM and about 30 armored vehicles of two different sizes. The vehicles were subsequently parked in the park of Batthyanyi Castle. The EM were quartered in the castle and in the former district court opposite the castle.
- c. The third train carried military personnel in three boxcars, and 50 to 60 trucks, each manned by not less than 10 soldiers. The EM were quartered in the Old Barracks and the New Barracks.
11. About three convoys, each of about 40 trucks with troops, arrived in Koermend after dusk at the beginning of October 1950. Many of the trucks were subsequently blocked up in the castle park. No further military shipments were observed until 20 November 1950.
12. Small groups of Soviet soldiers, apparently recruits, arrived from Szombathely aboard regular trains on about 10 days during the first half of October 1950. *

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Szombathely.

13. Until 15 November 1950, the Cavalry Barracks in Szombathely was observed to quarter troops with armored vehicles and small-caliber guns.
14. Hungarian railroadmen said that the Gendarmerie Barracks in Szombathely housed the Soviet military post headquarters. A Hungarian telegraph official stated that a modern telephone exchange was being established in the building of the new Gendarmerie Barracks. Numerous armored vehicles and trucks were parked in the area west of the barracks installation. []

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- * [] Comment. The observation of about 60 armored vehicles with troops obviously returning from the Hajmasker troop training grounds at the beginning of October 1950, and the estimate of about 200 troops in the barracks installation indicate that not less than one tank regiment of the 17th 3ds Lecz Div is stationed in Koermend. The number of troops estimated in the individual installations [] in 1949 was below the strength figures []

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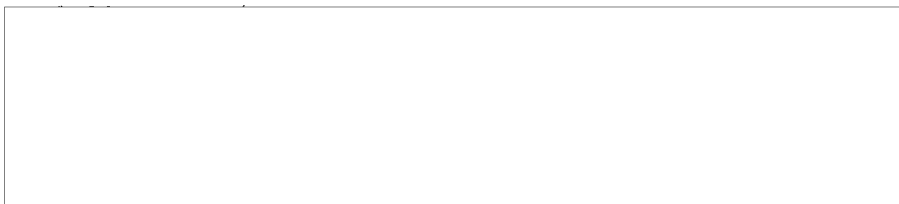
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